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Panorama

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● A voice for Concordia University's Faculty of Arts and Science ●



In good company

How some Concordia students are getting a head start on the job market

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Five years in, the future looks bright

By the time that you read this message, I will have completed my first five-year term as Dean of Concordia University's Faculty of Arts and Science. I am therefore pleased to have this opportunity to highlight what we have accomplished over this period.

Five years ago, Concordia was in the midst of the most serious financial crisis in its history, the combined result of chronic underfunding, a draconian 25 per cent cut in government funding and a government-imposed tuition freeze. A second challenge facing us was the age of our professors, the overwhelming majority of whom had been hired in the 1960s and 1970s and were approaching retirement age.

I am pleased to inform you that the Concordia spirit has prevailed and that we have emerged from our time of crisis stronger than ever. In 1997, we put together a strategic academic plan which identified 13 goals for our Faculty and specific strategies to achieve each goal. Our highest priority was and remains the rebuilding of our full-time faculty ranks, and I am pleased to report that we have since hired 125 tenure-track professors from around the world.

A second very high priority has been the renewal of our physical facilities. As most of you are aware, we are well along the way in building the new Loyola Science Complex, a state-of-the-art teaching and research centre expected to be ready next summer. We are already far along in the planning of a major gutting and rebuilding of the Drummond Building, which will house our Departments of Communications Studies and Journalism in the summer of 2004.

Under the leadership of our Rector, Dr. Frederick Lowy, the University today enjoys financial stability; it has raised more than \$100 million through successive capital and building campaigns, it enjoys the largest student enrolment in its history, and it has launched an ambitious campaign to build or completely renovate six buildings on its two campuses, including the two aforementioned projects at Loyola.

The future of Concordia University and the Faculty of Arts and Science is bright, but we must continue to work hard together to meet the challenges that still face us.

Martin Singer, Dean
Faculty of Arts & Science

Cover photo by Andrew Dobrowolsky: Effy Koukoulas (centre) and Tina D'Ambrosio (right) get a helping hand from Dr. Elizabeth Kwong, Senior Investigator, Pharmaceutical Research and Development at Merck Frosst. (see story, page 3)

In good company

Students get a taste of the job market
in co-operative programs

Effy Koukoulas had spent most of her weekends and summers waiting tables and tending bar at restaurants in Montreal's West Island. The highlight of Tina D'Ambrosio's job résumé might have been her stint selling greeting cards.

Yet when the two Concordia University biochemistry students showed up at Merck Frosst's giant research and development facility in Kirkland last January, they were issued company lab coats, ushered into training courses and invited to take part in groundbreaking pharmaceutical research.

"You don't normally walk into a pharmaceutical company with no prior experience and say, 'I'd like to work for you'", says D'Ambrosio.

But D'Ambrosio, 22, and Koukoulas, 20, were not what you would call "normal" job applicants; the two were sent to Merck Frosst as part of their studies with Concordia University's Institute for Co-operative Education — a unique educational program that allows students to combine traditional classroom study with paid work terms, or internships.

"If I were in a regular chemistry program, I would be learning the theory but not how to apply it on the job," says Koukoulas, who is completing her work term in Merck Frosst's Analytical Chemistry Department.

Students are attracted to the co-op model primarily by the prospect of adding hands-on work experience to their studies, says Christine Webb, Director of Concordia's Institute for Co-operative Education.

"Increasingly, students understand the need to enter the workforce with a combination of academic study and work experience," she says.

The Institute for Co-operative Education currently runs co-op programs in four disciplines within the Faculty of Arts and Science — Actuarial Mathematics, Chemistry/Biochemistry, Economics and Translation. Other programs exist in Concordia's Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science, as well as its John Molson School of Business. And Webb says there are plans to expand the program to more fields in the arts and sciences, as demand for the program at Concordia keeps pace with the trend across Canada.

At last count, 72,000 students were enrolled in co-operative education programs at Canadian colleges and universities, according to the Canadian Association for Co-operative Education. That represents a 67 per cent increase in 11 years.

At Concordia, about 15 to 20 students are accepted into each co-op field every year, depending on the quality of the applicants and current job-market conditions. Students spend their first two semesters attending classes, and embark upon their first work term that first summer. They then alternate between work and study throughout the length of their academic programs.

(see *In good company*, page 16 and *Student profiles*, pages 4 and 5)



Andrew Dobrowolsky

D'Ambrosio: the co-op solution

“Increasingly, students understand the need to enter the work force with a combination of academic study and work experience.”



Filosa: tackling new challenges

A prescription for success

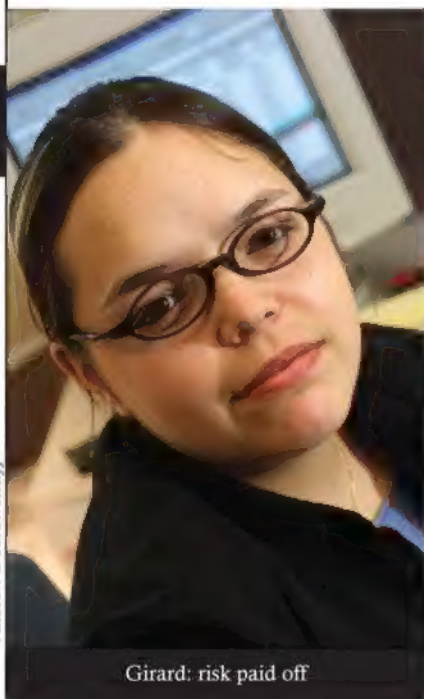
He had no trouble handling a schedule of grueling games and practices, and he never trembled in the face of 300-pound opponents. In fact, very little scared Angelo Filosa during the five years he suited up for the Concordia Stingers football team.

Things were considerably different the first time he walked into a research laboratory at Merck Frosst, the giant pharmaceutical company known for developing some of the world's most popular prescription medications. He was not even half-way through his undergraduate chemistry studies at Concordia when he was first outfitted with a lab coat and put to work on important research projects. "I was afraid to touch any of the equipment" he recalls.

"When I look back now, I was surprised by the level of responsibility we were given," he says. "We were involved in projects, in writing up reports and in performing jobs that were relevant to the company."

During his stay in Concordia's chemistry co-op program, Filosa also spent time working in a university research lab and at a small engineering firm. But he says it was his experience at Merck Frosst that ultimately steered him towards the pharmaceutical industry, which has many openings in the Montreal area.

He wound up completing both his Master's and PhD degrees at Concordia, and now works as a research scientist at Astra Zeneca, where he regularly hires Concordia co-op students for his own lab.



Girard: risk paid off

Beating the odds

Amélie Girard admits that the odds were not in her favour when she enrolled at Concordia University, just two years out of high school in Alma, a town in Quebec's French-speaking Lac St. Jean region. Not only was she entering the Faculty of Arts and Science's challenging Actuarial Mathematics program, but she had opted for the co-operative format, which meant combining her studies with a series of work terms in predominantly English-speaking milieus.

But the idea of earning work experience while she was still in school was too tempting to turn down, Girard says.

"It was a chance to try out different types of jobs without having to make more than a four-month commitment," she says. "You can't really do that once you leave university."

Although Girard's field of study is highly technical — actuaries help insurance companies set their premiums by calculating the odds of somebody dying or being stricken by illness — she said she was able to get a better feel for the field by combining her studies with actual work experiences. She spent one work-term with a life insurance company, another with a casualty insurance firm, and two with Towers Perrin, a consulting firm

involved in many facets of the industry.

"It was a question of taking what you learned in school and applying it to the job," said Girard who now works full-time at Towers Perrin. "Sure, you make a few mistakes at first, but you're always supervised and each job gives you increased responsibilities."

Hair-raising adventure

Robert Trachy says it was a search for adventure that prompted him to look beyond Montreal when it came time to choose his work terms in Concordia's Translation Studies co-op program. What he wasn't counting on was winding up in a lice-infested apartment.

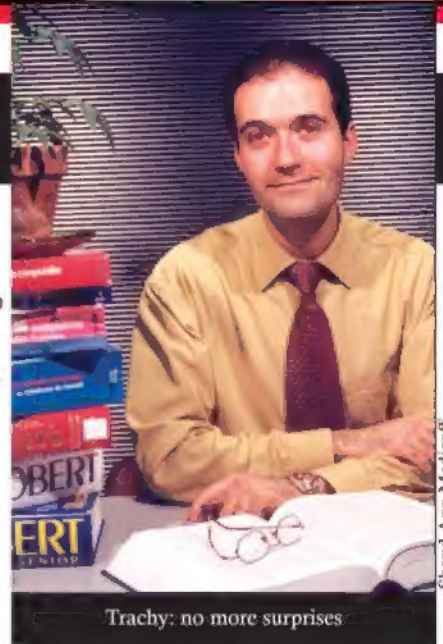
"The lice must have got into my suit because I spent my first day on the job scratching myself every time my boss wasn't looking," he says with a laugh.

But without those early battles with lice, Trachy doubts whether he would have been able to hatch such a successful career in translation.

"Going into university, my big worry was how I was going to find a job after graduation," he says. "But participating in the co-op program gives you a big edge when you call employers. Plus, there are no big surprises when you head out into the business world. You pretty much know what to expect."

Trachy spent two work terms at the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) in Ottawa, where he wrote and translated press releases and public documents relating to the government agency's decisions and rulings. "There was something happening every day, whether it was a ruling or the approval of a new cable provider," he says. "I had to take the legal documents and transform them into press releases, something palatable for the media."

Today, Trachy is a translator and editor at Samson, Belair, Deloitte and Touche, where he oversees a team of 35 translators and proof readers who write and translate releases, annual reports and other documents for corporate clients.



Trachy: no more surprises

Sheryl Ann Medico

Counting her options

When Gabriella Autmezguine first enrolled in Concordia's Economics program, she said she had very little idea what sort of careers awaited someone with a BA in the field. Now, six months shy of graduation, she has at least three solid options – thanks to her decision to join the Economics co-op program.

Autmezguine got her initial taste of the economics job market following her first year of study, when she spent the summer at BLC Securities, a financial securities firm. She spent subsequent work terms at a large insurance company and at a small clothing manufacturer, where she worked alongside the company's financial analyst, forecasting corporate budgets.

"The co-op program has allowed me to put my theory into practice," Autmezguine says enthusiastically. "And it's a great chance to see whether you really like the field."

Although she has yet to decide in which direction she would like to steer her career, Autmezguine says she really enjoyed the hectic pace of her first job in financial securities, despite the stressful nature of the work. Her team was responsible for analyzing government budgets and forecasting their implications for various sectors of the economy.

"It was a lot of work, but my boss told me that he was sure I could handle it," she says. "He trusted my work."

And upon her return to school, Autmezguine says, she had a better grasp of economic concepts, as well as a new understanding as to how they apply to real-life situations.



Autmezguine: future is secure

Andrew Dobrowsky



Colin Price, courtesy of the Vancouver Province

Entwistle: looking to score across Canada

Entwistle's tenure at Telus has coincided with the Vancouver-based company's bid to become a truly pan-Canadian telecommunications firm, which means facing off with Bell in Quebec and Ontario.

The Lord of the Rings

Telus chief has no hang-ups in taking on Bell

Darren Entwistle's introduction to the world of telecommunications was anything but glamorous. But to this day, the Montreal native looks back with fond memories at his first summer job — installing telephone lines for Bell Canada.

"It was a great way to learn about responsibility," says Entwistle, who worked for Bell while pursuing his Economics degree at Concordia University. "Each morning, you would get the keys to a truck and a list of orders and you were sent out to make it happen."

Entwistle, who graduated from Concordia in 1986, has climbed considerably higher up Canada's telecommunications ladder since then. At 38, he is set to begin his third year as president and chief executive officer of Telus Corp., a telecommunications powerhouse in Alberta and British Columbia.

Ironically, Entwistle's tenure at the helm of Telus has coincided with the Vancouver-based company's bid to become a truly pan-Canadian telecommunications player, which means facing off with his former employer right on Bell's home ice — the lucrative markets of Quebec and Ontario.

"Bell is a very strong brand in Quebec and Ontario, and if you don't respect it, you'll get into trouble," he says. "But it's also clear that there is a desire on the part of the business community in Quebec and Ontario to find a credible alternative to Bell."

The early figures prove Entwistle may be right; when he first arrived at Telus, the company had virtually no revenue in Quebec and Ontario. Last year, Telus recorded \$800 million in sales in Canada's two largest provinces — 11 per cent of the company's overall revenue of \$7.2 billion. It now ranks as the country's second largest telecommunications firm.

The battle for market share has been most visible in the cellular telephone sector, where Telus Mobility — known for its colourful ads featuring penguins, snails and seahorses — has pulled into a three-way battle with Bell Mobility and Rogers AT&T for supremacy.

But Entwistle, who spent seven years working with Bell after graduation, deems the rivalry with Canada's telecommunications giant to be one of "intelligent competition", saying that it will ultimately prove to be good for both companies as the overall market continues to grow.

"If we compete in Quebec and Ontario in a smart fashion, we can grow the overall telecom supply," he says. "It will be good for Telus, good for Bell and good for customers in Quebec and Ontario."

Although he now makes his home in Vancouver, Entwistle returns to Quebec frequently, both on business and to visit family. And he says he continues to cherish his memories from Concordia.

"I will always be grateful for my time at Concordia," he says. "It was a big catalyst for my career." **P**

Y

oung in spirit

Older students teach us that it's never too late to hit the books

As a child, Rita Gillespie says she was taught to value an education. But due to a series of circumstances, she never had the chance to complete a university degree. Instead, she devoted her life to rearing a family and raising money for charitable causes.

But when her kids grew up and her husband passed away, she decided it wasn't too late to return to school – even at the age of 61.

She started out with a few courses in English Literature and a handful in Philosophy. By 1998, she found herself climbing on stage at Place des Arts to receive her Bachelor of Arts degree with Honours in Philosophy. And today, she is one thesis paper shy of receiving her Master's degree in Philosophy.

"To be honest, getting a degree was certainly not my intent," Gillespie recalled recently. "I have always had a thirst for learning. I went back to school to enrich my life."

And while you won't find too many 71-year-old grandmothers riding the Concordia University shuttle bus, the Faculty of Arts and Science has often been a magnet for older students looking to pursue degrees – thanks in large part to Concordia's reputation for accessibility, which dates back to Sir George Williams University's tradition of giving people a second chance.

Today's older students tend to fall into two broad categories – those who return to school in the hopes of orchestrating a career change, and those who hit the books with more recreational aims in mind.

"For a lot of older students, it's a question of seeking personal satisfaction," says Brigeen Badour, an adviser at Concordia's Centre for Mature Students. "It's often something that they have always wanted to do, but that maybe they didn't feel they had the time or the confidence to accomplish."

But regardless of their motivations, older students all appear to share the same concerns. "They're usually very scared," Badour says. "They're scared about having to take notes and they're scared about having to read textbooks. And they don't know if they can learn anything new at their age."

In order to ease the transition back to the classroom, the Centre for Mature Students hosts regular workshops that help students gain basic skills in time management, note-taking and effective reading. Students are also referred to Concordia's Centre for Counseling and Development for more detailed attention.

Those resources were a great help to Olga Proulx, who enrolled in Concordia's Geography program at the age of 47 – nearly 30 years after her first, failed attempt at a university degree. She admits that she was terrified of going to class that first semester, unsure if she would be able to keep up with the workload at her age.

(see *Young in spirit*, page 16)



Andrew Dobrowsky

Gillespie: a thirst for learning

“For a lot of older students, it's a question of seeking personal satisfaction. It's often something that they have always wanted to do, but that maybe they didn't feel they had the time or the confidence to accomplish.”

General education on tap this fall

In an effort to further enrich the educational experience of its students, the Faculty of Arts and Science has crafted a General Education program designed to expose students to a wider breadth of courses than ever before.

As of this fall, students enrolling in a Major in the Faculty will be required to complete four General Education courses (12 credits) before graduation. Students enrolling in an Honours, Specialization or Double Major must take two General Education courses (6 credits).

Students can create their own General Education program by choosing from a list of specifically-designed courses, or they can opt to study around a common theme. Four courses have been grouped together along the theme of Great Books and Western Tradition, while two Clusters have also been set up, one in the area of Discovering Science, the other around the issue of Globalization.

Either way, students will have the opportunity to complement their disciplinary studies with a series of courses delving into broad issues, says William Byers, Principal of Concordia's Lonergan University College and one of the primary architects of the General Education program.

"The program is based on the notion that an undergraduate education should contain a certain breadth to complement the depth of a major," Byers says. "This is true for all students, whether they are in the social sciences, the humanities or the natural sciences."

The Balkans explained

Dr. Thanos Veremis, a Professor of Hellenic and Southeast European Studies at Tufts University in Medford, Mass. presented a thought-provoking analysis of the geo-political situation in Europe's tumultuous Balkan region as part of Concordia University's 2002 Hellenic Studies Lecture Series in April.

Veremis (second from left), spoke in front of about 100 people, including, from left, The Hon. Ioannis Papadopoulos, Counsel-General of Greece to Montreal, The Hon. Leonidas Chrysanthopoulos, Greece's Ambassador to Canada, and Dr. Nikos Metallinos, Coordinator of the Faculty of Arts and Science's Hellenic Studies Unit.



Andrew Dobrowolsky

Snapshots

Dozens of people gathered at Concordia University's Samuel Bronfman House in March for the inaugural lecture of the **Diniacopoulos BBC Speakers Series**, featuring Stewart Ewen, a noted media studies professor at Hunter College in New York City. The late Denis Diniacopoulos, a Professor in Concordia's Department of Communication Studies, taped more than 9,000 hours of BBC World News reports between 1970 and 1986. His mother, Olga Nicolas-Diniacopoulos, donated the collection to Concordia three years ago, along with money to digitize the tapes for safekeeping. Some of the funds were earmarked for a lecture series to promote the collection and for scholarships and fellowships for students working with the tapes.

Former Concordia professor **Dr. Gail Valaskakis** was one of 14 Canadians honoured with a 2002 National Aboriginal Achievement Award, the Aboriginal community's highest honour for its own achievers. Valaskakis received the award in March during a gala ceremony which was later aired as a CBC television special. Valaskakis, a leading authority on Northern and Aboriginal media and communications in Canada, was a Professor in Concordia's Department of Communication Studies. She also served as Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Science from 1992 to 1997. She now serves as Director of Research at the Aboriginal Healing Foundation in Ottawa.

Dr. Norman Ravvin, Chair of Concordia's Institute for Canadian Jewish Studies, has edited a collection of short stories by Canadian Jewish writers. The book, *Not Quite Mainstream: Canadian Jewish Stories*, includes works from notable writers

such as Mordecai Richler and Chava Rosenfarb, as well as more contemporary authors, including Elaine Kalman Naves and Claire Rothman. It was published by Red Deer Press.

Alexandrine Boudreault-Fournier, a graduate student in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology, presented a paper in March at the *Cinéma du Réel et Bilan du Film Ethnographique*, a major conference in Paris.

Robert Scalia, a graduate diploma student in the Department of Journalism, is one of three Canadians who have won Hong Kong Fellowships from the Canadian Association of Journalists. The winners will spend 10 days in Hong Kong, where they will file print or broadcast stories for Canadian media.

The latest book from études françaises professor **Olivier Dyens**, entitled *Les Murs des Planètes*, received a four-star rating in Montreal's *La Presse*. The book is the third by the prolific young writer.

Martine Dugrenier and **Sommer Christie**, both third-year athletic therapy students, were recently named co-winners of Concordia's Female Athlete-of-the-Year award. Dugrenier won six gold medals for the Stingers' wrestling team this past year, including top honours at the national university championships. Christie emerged as the leader of the Stingers' women's rugby team and was named both a Quebec all-star and an All-Canadian. She is a member of Canada's national women's rugby team. Christie also sports a 3.71 grade point average and was named a Royal Bank of Canada Academic All-Canadian.

Speaking of good news ...

When the American Association for Applied Linguistics sought to hand out awards to the field's top Master's students, their search started and ended at Concordia University – home to all three of the association's 2002 award recipients. Eowyn Crisfield (centre) and Ioana Nicolae (right) each won a \$600 US grant



Andrew Dobrowolsky

to attend the association's annual conference, which took place in Salt Lake City, Utah in April. Beverly Baker (left) received a full tuition waiver, valued at \$1,600 US, to attend the inaugural Penn State Summer Institute in Philadelphia, Pa. and \$1,000 US to help cover her travel and living expenses. All three women are MA students in Applied Linguistics – a field that focuses on issues such as language development and language-teaching methodology. Award winners were chosen based on their academic work and promise in the field of applied linguistics.

New fellowships, stipends for History students

Diagobert Broh was never satisfied with just studying history. He also wanted to make some of his own. He accomplished that feat six years ago when, at the age of 91, he became the oldest Canadian ever to receive a doctorate degree.

But while Broh passed away three years ago, his memory will continue to live on at Concordia University, thanks in part to his generous bequest. Interest generated by the money is being used to set up a \$12,000 graduate fellowship, to be awarded each year to a student entering the PhD program in History.

A further \$3,000 a year will be available to graduate students in the form of research stipends, meant to defray travel costs incurred during research projects.

Both initiatives mark the department's first substantial sources of internal funding and will help the Faculty of Arts and Science in its bid to attract top-quality History students, says Ronald Rudin, Chair of the Department of History.

"We have a file full of students who have wanted to come here but who were offered money to go elsewhere," says Rudin. "This will definitely enable us to become more competitive."

Sneak peak at Science Complex

Close to 80 faculty members and other Concordia University officials braved a cold April rain to catch a sneak peak at the new Loyola Science Complex during a site visit marking the completion of the concrete shell.

The \$85-million project has now entered its third phase, with about 400 workers installing electrical wiring, plumbing and ventilation systems throughout the 33,000 square-meter complex. The building is scheduled to be ready for a Summer 2003 occupancy, and will welcome its first students in September of that year.

Once complete, the Loyola Science Complex will house the Departments of Biology, Chemistry and Biochemistry, Exercise Science, Physics and a major component of Psychology, as well as Science College, the Centre for Structural and Functional Genomics, the Centre for Studies in Behavioural Neurobiology, and several smaller research centres and support facilities.

To see continually updated video footage of the project, visit the Concordia Buildings web site at <http://buildings.concordia.ca>.



Photos: Andrew Dobrowolsky

Out on a limb

Biology professor relies on forest genetics in bid to save world's trees



Andrew Dobrowsky

Dayanandan: saving forests

If a tree falls in the forest, does anybody hear? You can count Selvadurai Dayanandan among those who will hear about it, even from his perch on the top floor of the Henry F. Hall Building.

An Assistant Professor in Concordia University's Department of Biology, Dayanandan is one of Canada's leading researchers in the area of deforestation, working tirelessly to better understand the causes and consequences of this environmental problem that plagues many parts of the world, including Canada.

The problem, he says, is particularly acute in Southeast Asia, where an increasing number of governments, tempted by the prospect of export cash, have turned many of their forests over to the logging industry. The pressures of growing populations are also forcing governments to clear large tracts of forest to make way for farmland and sprawling cities.

Using satellite imagery, the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization has estimated that nearly one per cent of the world's forested areas disappear each year. The loss of large numbers of trees can lead to climate changes and soil erosion, and leave many areas at a greater risk of flooding.


"Almost all rainforests are under various threats of destruction," says Dayanandan, who grew up near a rainforest in Sri Lanka. "People don't notice when you lose one species, just like they don't notice if you remove a single instrument from an orchestra. But when you remove all of the instruments, you lose the music."

Schooled in the relatively new field of forest genetics, Dayanandan and his team of graduate students are using molecular techniques to track pollen movement and the dispersal of seeds in order to forecast how deforestation may affect the long-term viability of certain tree species.

Dayanandan carries out most of his research in Concordia's forest genetics laboratory, which was established with a grant from the Canadian Foundation for Innovation. Using leaf and seed samples collected by researchers in the field, Dayanandan's team is able to create genetic maps and DNA fingerprints for various species, which reveal clues about a species' behaviour, including its ability to regenerate quickly and ward off disease.

The information helps tree breeders and others involved in forest regeneration decide which species should be replanted in specific forests in order to obtain the best results.

In the meantime, Dayanandan continues to publish scientific papers tracking the accelerating pace of deforestation — papers which are meant to serve as a wake-up call to governments around the world.

"As an academic, I can give policy makers scientific information free of any political interference," he says. "It's not a one-shot deal, but if you repeat the information often enough, it adds up over time." 

“People don't notice when you lose one species, just like they don't notice if you remove a single instrument from an orchestra. But when you remove all of the instruments, you lose the music.”

Banner year for research

It's shaping up as another banner year for research in the Faculty of Arts and Science. More than 50 professors have received new research grants in this year's round of competitions, and four faculty members have been appointed to prestigious research chairs.

On the competition front, the news was particularly uplifting in the Natural Sciences, as 30 faculty members have won funding from the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC), representing nearly \$1.4 million. Most of that money will be used to cover general research costs, including travel costs and the salaries of research assistants, while about \$400,000 has been designated to purchase equipment.

Twenty-one professors from the Humanities and Social Science sectors have so far been pegged to receive research grants from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC), and 15 newly-hired professors have won research funding from FCAR, the Quebec government agency that supports new faculty members. They will each receive \$15,000 in support over each of the next three years.

Meanwhile, Andreas Arvanitogiannis, an Assistant Professor in the Department of Psychology, has become the first Concordia faculty member to be named as a Canada

Research Chair as part of the federal government's plan to help Canadian universities attract and keep top research talent. The government set aside \$900 million for the program in its 2000 budget and hopes to establish 2,000 Canada Research Chairs in universities across the country by 2005.

The Faculty of Arts and Science also appointed three Professors to the position of Concordia University Research Chairs – Drs. Ann English and Gilles Peslherbe from the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, and Dr. Frederick Bird from the Department of Religion. Drs. English and Bird were appointed at the senior level, while Dr. Peslherbe's appointment was made at the junior level.

This initiative, now in its second year, is intended to recognize distinguished Arts and Science researchers in several of the Faculty's priority areas. Research chairs receive a stipend, a remission of three credits, and research support. Appointments are for seven years at the senior level and five years at the junior level. They may be renewed.

Last year, the Faculty appointed five Professors as senior Concordia University Research Chairs – Drs. Shimon Amir, William Bukowski, Lisa Serbin and Peter Shizgal from the Department of Psychology, and Dr. Philip Abrami from the Department of Education.

Fifteen newly-hired Arts and Science professors have won research funding. They will each receive \$15,000 in support over each of the next three years.

Dr. Andreas Arvanitogiannis

Andreas Arvanitogiannis, an Assistant Professor in the Department of Psychology and a member of Concordia's Centre for Studies in Behavioural Neurobiology, is an emerging researcher in the field molecular biology. His work examines how the promise of rewards may alter cell-signaling systems in neurons. His research is likely to have important implications in susceptibility to drug addiction and its treatment.

Arvanitogiannis joined Concordia's faculty last summer after doing postdoctoral work at Harvard Medical School. A native of Athens, Greece, he received all three of his degrees from Concordia, including his PhD in 1998. The following year, he won the Prix d'excellence from the Académie des Grands Montréalais for the best doctoral thesis in the field of natural sciences and engineering. In addition to his research work, Arvanitogiannis also teaches undergraduate courses in areas such as Motivation and Drug Addiction.



Andrew Dobrowsky

Dr. Frederick Bird

Dr. Frederick Bird is a Professor in the Department of Religion, where he teaches Comparative Ethics, Religious Ethics and the Sociology of Religion. He has written four books and published numerous research papers and essays on early Christianity, corporate governance, contemporary religious movements and international business ethics. His current research project is a comparative study of the practices of international business in developing countries. The aim of the project is to study case by case how major corporations manage to establish and conduct business in developing areas.

Dr. Bird holds a PhD from the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, Calif. He has been teaching at Concordia since 1971. Prior to that, he was a Minister of the Inner City Methodist Churches in Boston and San Francisco, where he helped develop anti-poverty programs.



Andrew Dobrowskyj

Dr. Ann English

Dr. Ann English is a Professor in the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, where she is heavily involved in research in the field of Inorganic Chemistry. A main focus of her research is the study of oxidative stress in cells, which may yield clues about the human aging process and diseases such as Alzheimer's. She is also investigating nitric oxide – a gas that is produced by cells to affect several biological functions, including blood pressure control.

Dr. English holds a PhD in Inorganic Chemistry from McGill University. She has been teaching at Concordia since 1982, following the completion of a postdoctoral fellowship at the California Institute of Technology. In addition to her research, she teaches undergraduate and graduate courses in Bioinorganic Chemistry, Mass Spectrometry, Proteomics and Cell Signaling, among others. She currently oversees the work of 15 graduate students.



Andrew Dobrowskyj

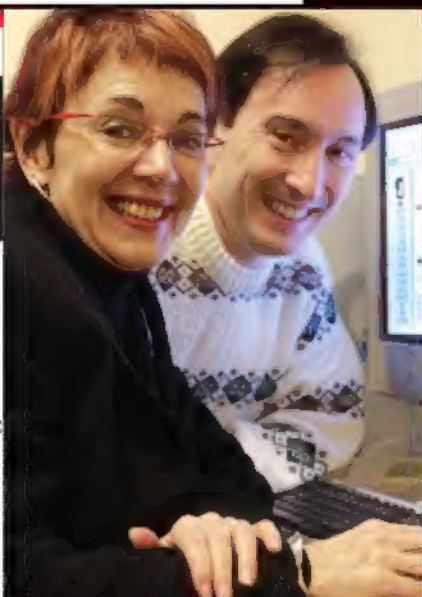
Dr. Gilles Peslherbe

Dr. Gilles Peslherbe is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry and Founding Director of Concordia's Centre for Research in Molecular Modeling. His main research areas include Theoretical and Computational Chemistry, and Physical Chemistry. In the last eight years, he has had more than 30 articles published in international journals, and has presented his research findings at more than 50 conferences.

Dr. Peslherbe, a native of France, received his PhD in Physical Chemistry with a minor in Computing Engineering from Wayne State University in Detroit in 1995. He completed two post-doctoral fellowships before joining Concordia in 1998. He teaches courses in the areas of Quantum Theory and Spectroscopy, Computational Chemistry and Statistical Mathematics.



Andrew Dobrowskyj



Brunette and Caignon: program architects

H high-tech translation

New courses prepare translators for a dot.com world

There was a time not too long ago when all a translator needed to worry about was vocabulary and grammar. Master the two concepts in at least two languages and you were pretty much guaranteed a successful career.

But then came computers, followed by software programs, CD-Roms and the Internet. Suddenly, a translator with little grasp of computer technology was like a sentence with a dangling participle.

"In the past, translators used to work mostly with paper documents," says Louise Brunette, an Associate Professor in Concordia University's Département d'études françaises. "But today they find themselves having to translate Web sites, software programs, computer games and technical manuals. They must be comfortable working in a computerized environment."


This fall, Concordia will become the second Canadian university to offer a program that specifically aims to equip translators with the technological skills they need in order to ply their trade in high-tech environments. The 15-credit Certificate in Localization will include courses such as Computer-Assisted Translation, which will examine aspects of automated translation programs, and Localization Programming, which is intended to provide students with practical experience translating and editing Web sites and software programs.

One particularly interesting aspect of the program is cultural-sensitivity training; with Internet technologies making information easily accessible to markets around the world, it is more critical than ever that translators be aware of cultural taboos and sensitivities when translating material for foreign markets.

"Companies no longer talk about translating materials into another language, they speak instead of localizing the information for different communities, taking care to avoid taboos based on religion or cultural superstitions," says Philippe Caignon, an Assistant Professor in the Département d'études françaises.

While Caignon says that the courses are not intended to provide students with an exhaustive list of what to avoid in each culture, they are meant to open the students' eyes to the fact that differences do exist and to teach them how to go about researching these differences.

The Certificate in Localization is being launched in conjunction with Alis Technologies, a Montreal-based company that has emerged as a worldwide leader in the field of language management, translation and localization services. Alis Technologies will provide instructors for some of the courses.

For more information, contact Louise Brunette at (514) 848- 7506. 

New programs in Canadian Irish Studies

Concordia University's Centre for Canadian Irish Studies is introducing two new programs of study for the Fall 2002 semester – a 24-credit Minor in Canadian Irish Studies for undergraduate students in the Faculty of Arts and Science, and a 30-credit Certificate in Canadian Irish Studies, open to the general public.

Both programs are composed of courses that focus on the Irish experience in Ireland and Canada. Courses, offered on a cyclical basis, are drawn from 10 academic departments and include offerings such as *Irish Culture in Canada*, *The Irish Experience in Montreal* and *The Making of the Irish Landscape*. For more information, call (514) 848-8711.

Marketing campaign a hit with CEGEP students

This past winter marked the first time that the Faculty of Arts and Science launched a full-scale marketing campaign targeting students at Montreal's five English-language CEGEPs. The campaign featured short testimonials from nine Arts and Science graduates who are currently pursuing exciting careers. Their stories and photos appeared on posters and transit shelters near each CEGEP and were carried in ads in school, community and daily newspapers.



Andrew Dobrowolsky



Andrew Dobrowolsky

Make it your first choice!

I am really glad that I chose to study at Concordia University's Faculty of Arts and Science. I wanted to pursue a career as an Athletic Therapist, and Concordia's Department of Exercise Science proved to be a great training ground. The teachers provided a good base, teaching us how to prepare for different situations and how to treat many types of injuries. And because it is such a small program, you get a lot of hands-on experience.

Kevin Longpré
 Certified Athletic Therapist,
 Concordia Sports Medicine and
 Physiotherapy Clinic, Pointe Claire
 Howard S. Billings High School, class of '94
 Dawson College, class of '96
 Concordia University, class of 2000
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In good company

(continued from page 3)

But while co-op students require an extra nine months to complete their academic credits, the benefits are easy to spot. Studies reveal that co-op students have an easier time finding jobs after graduation and are much more likely to find work in a field closely related to their area of study.

"It's a great way for students to avoid that famous Catch-22, where you need experience to get a job, but you need a job to get experience," says Webb. "The students graduate from university with program-relevant experience and they know what they want to do with their degree."

The list of employers participating in Concordia's co-op program reads like a Who's Who of Canada's corporate community and includes the likes of Air Canada, Pratt & Whitney, Standard Life and Manulife Financial. Many students also complete work terms with government departments and agencies.

Employers are expected to pay the students fair wages and provide ample supervision. And co-op coordinators and Concordia faculty members visit job sites on a regular basis to ensure that the students are involved in meaningful tasks.

"Many employers see it as an investment in their futures, as a way of getting the best and the brightest into their companies," says Webb. "A lot of companies even incorporate co-op programs into their human resource plans. They use it as an opportunity to try out students and then hire them on full-time after graduation."

"It gives us an opportunity to get to know the top students and it gives the students a chance to get to know us, too," adds Lynn Allen, an associate actuary at Manulife Financial, which hires Concordia co-op students on a regular basis. "We feel that it gives us a heads-up when it comes to full-time recruitment."

Back at Merck Frosst, full-time careers are still far from the minds of Koukoulas and D'Ambrosio, who won't complete their undergraduate degrees until 2004. Yet they are already enjoying a taste of what their careers as chemists might entail.

"This allows me to see what kinds of careers I can pursue after I graduate," Koukoulas says.

Young in spirit

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"At first I thought that maybe I wasn't smart enough," she says. "But I fit in with my classmates very quickly. I might have been older than them, but we were all working towards the same goal – to complete our courses and get our degrees."

And in the end, Proulx exceeded even her own expectations. She graduated with Honours in 1997 and completed a Master's degree in Public Policy and Public Administration two years later. Along the way, she taught herself how to use a computer and even spent one semester on an international exchange program in Wisconsin.

Now, at 56, she is working on her PhD, focusing on tree regeneration in the aftermath of forest fires. "I spend my summers up north, on my hands and knees in burned-out forests," she says with a laugh.

For more information, call Concordia's Centre for Mature Students at (514) 848-3895.

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